



Region Four Headquarters
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405
August 27, 2007

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed Donation of a Conservation Easement on the Smith River

Attached is the draft Environmental Assessment regarding the proposed donation of a Conservation Easement on a 240-acre parcel of private property in the Smith River corridor. The parcel would become part of Smith River State Park for public benefit. The possibility of providing public access to this private parcel has been a high priority for the Department for many years. The private landowner has approached the Department with the intent of donating a Conservation Easement on this parcel. The benefits of the Conservation Easement include the potential to provide new Boat Camp(s) on the Smith River corridor, as well as allowing the public legal access to the scenic Deep Creek drainage immediately adjacent to the Smith River for hiking and outdoor recreation.

The EA analyzes the impacts to the human and natural environment from the proposed action and alternatives. We invite you to review the attached EA and provide us with your comments no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, September 17, 2007.

Please mail comments to: Smith River – Deep Creek Conservation Easement EA, FWP, Region 4 Headquarters, 4600 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls, MT 59405. Comments may also be E-mailed to: rsemmler@mt.gov

If you need additional information please contact the undersigned at 406-454-5846, or Mr. Roger Semler, Region 4 Parks Manager, at 406-454-5859.

/s/

Gary Bertellotti

Region Four Supervisor

Attachment: Draft Environmental Assessment